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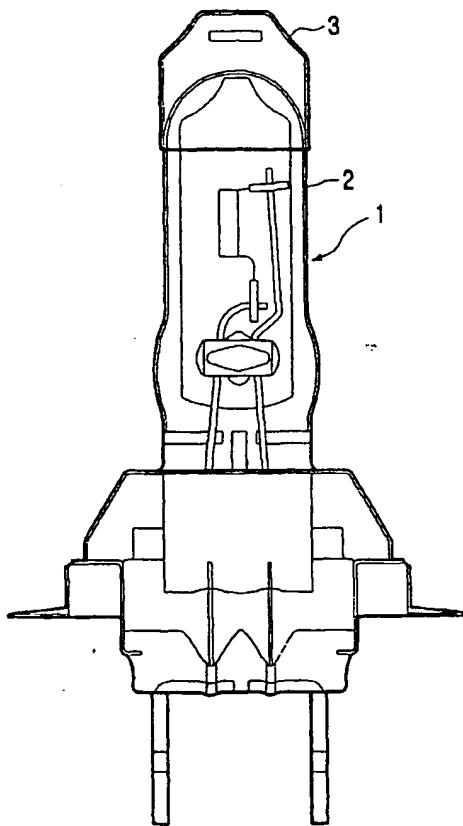
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(54) Title: HALOGEN HEADLIGHT LAMP FOR AN AUTOMOBILE



(57) **Abstract:** The invention relates to a halogen headlight lamp for an automobile comprising at least a lamp bulb (2) and an antiglare screen (3) which is indetachably fastened to the end of the lamp bulb facing the road in the mounted position of the lamp, wherein the antiglare screen (3) is formed by a cup-shaped component which has substantially received its final shape already at the moment of its fastening to the lamp bulb (2).

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ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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Halogen headlight lamp for an automobile

The invention relates to a halogen headlight lamp for an automobile comprising at least a lamp bulb and an antiglare screen which is indetachably fastened to the end of the lamp bulb facing the road in the mounted position of the lamp.

Halogen headlight lamps for automobiles are provided with opaque screens 5 because of legal requirements stipulating that a direct irradiation of oncoming traffic by the light issuing from the halogen headlight lamp must be prevented. The relevant antiglare screen has been realized for decades by means of a usually single-layer or multiple-layer coat of paint which is provided in a dipping process on that end of the lamp bulb which faces the road, and accordingly the oncoming traffic, in the mounted position of the lamp, followed by 10 a burning-in of the coat of paint on the lamp bulb. A constant antiglare screen in the sense indicated above, which is guaranteed to be permanent throughout the life of the halogen headlight lamp, has only been possible until now with great effort and high expenditure in the case of lamps manufactured in a mass manufacturing process, in spite of major efforts by the industry, and has accordingly been in the focus of the development efforts of all relevant 15 lamp manufacturers involved for years. Depending on the manufacturer and/or on the respective loads, for example strong impact loads or thermal loads, an at least partial damage of the paint coat cannot be fully excluded. Cracks or even a partial flaking-off of portions of the paint coat can jeopardize the required permanence of an antiglare screen.

For certain lamp types or applications, there is a demand in the automobile 20 industry for the technical element which until now only had to realize the antiglare protection to fulfill further additional functions. Such new functions may be in the field of novel design possibilities, or may serve to provide carriers of technical and/or user-specific information.

The present-day headlight design involves a danger, at least for certain forms of headlights, that the antiglare screen mentioned above is not sufficient on its own for 25 fulfilling the requirements. For this reason some manufacturers use so-termed cups which are additionally placed or mounted in front of the lamp. Such a solution is described, for example, in US 5,975,731, wherein the light hindering the oncoming traffic is eliminated by a reflecting component which is mechanically fastened to the headlight in front of the lamp by means of two strips. Such a fastening by means of a strip has the disadvantage that the latter

inevitably causes a partial shadow effect, the elimination of which again requires an additional expenditure.

It is an object of the invention to provide a halogen headlight lamp and an antiguare screen for such a halogen headlight lamp whereby it is safeguarded that the required 5 impermeability to light is ensured throughout the life of the halogen headlight lamp, while the latter can be manufactured in a technically simple and inexpensive manner.

The object of the invention is achieved in that the antiguare screen is formed by a cup-shaped component which has received substantially its final shape already at the moment of its fastening to the lamp bulb.

10 The cup-shaped component may thus be readily adapted with its inner contour to the shape of the lamp bulb and the relevant kind of fastening. The shape and design of the outer contour of the antiguare screen may be implemented in a plurality of manners. Depending on the intended application of the lamp, for example in a certain type of vehicle from a certain automobile manufacturer, this opens up the possibility of incorporating the 15 lamp into the overall relevant design concept of the vehicle, or at least of adapting it thereto. For example, the coloring of the antiguare screen may be harmonized with the color of the car body or the logo or symbol of the automobile manufacturer may be integrated in a high-grade manner.

20 The function of the component which primarily serves to ensure the antiguare protection may be extended in that it is used in particular as a carrier of information and data, so that it can be basically included in the vehicle management, should this be desired.

25 Partial shadow effects are avoided by the stepless nature of the fastening. The solution according to the invention renders it possible in principle to achieve an improvement in the antiguare protection, given a suitable shaping of the cup-shaped component itself or a fastening of an additional cup to the cup-shaped component.

30 The solution according to the invention in addition renders it possible to manufacture the antiguare screen separately, possibly beforehand, so that it can be connected to the lamp bulb by suitable means in a technological step. Here, too, a plurality of possibilities is available for the concrete choice of the type of fastening, so that the simplest and least expensive fastening type may be chosen, for example taking into account all aspects of the manufacture and the relevant operational parameters.

It is preferred in this connection that the fastening between the cup-shaped component and the lamp bulb is achieved by means of a connection based on material properties, exertion of force, and/or interlocking arrangements.

It is furthermore preferred, in particular for achieving a simple and inexpensive manufacture of the halogen headlight lamp, that the interconnection can be achieved by mechanical fastening means such as snap mechanisms or screw threads and/or by adhesion. Known adhesives may be used as the adhesives for the manufacture of the

5 reliable connection, which adhesives should be in particular resistant to high temperatures and attuned to the chosen material combination and to the loads exerted during lamp life. For a material combination of metal and glass, or ceramic material and glass, for example, a commercially available so-termed high-temperature ceramic adhesive is suitable, comprising in particular metal and/or ceramic refractive materials. These adhesives, which are often in

10 the form of pastes, form high-temperature-resistant adhesive joints upon curing. Examples that may be mentioned are a high-temperature adhesive on aluminum basis with the commercial designation Polytec 950 and a high-temperature adhesive on steel basis with the commercial designation Polytec 954. The latter adhesive is resistant up to approximately 870 °C.

15 Preferred materials for the cup-shaped opaque component are metal, ceramic material, high-temperature synthetic resin, and/or glass. The choice of the respective material is determined fundamentally by the envisaged manufacture, the application of the lamp, and the desired functions.

A particular embodiment of the invention relates to the fact that visually and/or technically readable data and/or information can be stored on and/or in the outer surface of the opaque cup-shaped component. The functionality of the opaque antiglare screen is enhanced thereby, i.e. an additional user advantage is immediately obtained by this arrangement.

The object of the invention is additionally achieved by means of an antiglare screen of a halogen headlight lamp with a lamp bulb, wherein the opaque antiglare screen is a cup-shaped component which has received substantially its final shape at the moment of its fastening to the lamp bulb.

The terms "cup" and "cup-shaped" within the scope of the invention relate in particular to the shape of a hollow cylinder which is closed at one end; however, similar 30 geometric shapes are not excluded thereby.

The invention will be explained in more detail below with reference to an embodiment. In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a diagrammatic cross-sectional view of a halogen headlight lamp with an opaque antiglare screen,

Fig. 2 is a diagrammatic cross-sectional view of a snap fastening between a lamp bulb of a halogen headlight lamp and an opaque antiglare screen, and

Fig. 3 is a diagrammatic cross-sectional view of a snap-adhesive fastening between a lamp bulb of a halogen headlight lamp and an opaque antiglare screen.

Fig. 1 is a diagrammatic cross-sectional view of a halogen headlight lamp 10 according to the invention with an opaque antiglare screen 3. The antiglare screen 3, which is undetachably fastened to that end of the lamp bulb 2 which faces the road in the mounted state of the lamp, consists of a cup-shaped component. This component is a steel or aluminum stamped part which has already received substantially its final shape at the moment of its fastening to the lamp bulb 2.

15 Fig. 2 shows a portion of a cylindrical region of a lamp bulb 2 of a halogen headlight lamp for an automobile and a cylindrical portion of an opaque antiglare screen 3 in a diagrammatic cross-sectional view. The region of the glass bulb shown has a lenticular projection 4 at its outer surface which snaps into a recess 5 of corresponding size and shape provided in the inner side of the antiglare screen. The antiglare screen formed as a cup-shaped component is preferably of a resilient construction in the region of its recess, so that an interlocking, resilient interconnection, a so-called snap connection, is obtained. There is some clearance between the cylindrical inner side of the antiglare screen and the outer surface of the lamp bulb 2. This clearance renders it possible inter alia to mount the antiglare screen 3 to the end of the lamp bulb 2 facing the road in a simple and reliable manner.

20 Fig. 3 shows a portion of a cylindrical region of a lamp bulb 2 of a halogen headlight lamp for an automobile. The region of the glass bulb shown has a recess 6 in its outer surface, into which recess a projection 7 of corresponding size and shape arranged at the inner side of the antiglare screen is snapped in. In addition to this so-called snap connection between the recess 6 and the projection 7, the strength and reliability of the connection may be enhanced by the use of an adhesive, so that a snap-adhesive joint is obtained. Several such connections may be distributed over the circumference. Alternative shapes are possible in principle for the shape of the mutually mating projection 7 and recess 6.

CLAIMS

1. A halogen headlight lamp for an automobile comprising at least a lamp bulb (2) and an antiglare screen (3) which is indetachably fastened to the end of the lamp bulb facing the road in the mounted position of the lamp, characterized in that the opaque antiglare screen (3) is formed by a cup-shaped component which has received substantially its final shape already at the moment of its fastening to the lamp bulb (2).
5
2. A halogen headlight lamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the fastening between the cup-shaped component and the lamp bulb (2) is achieved by means of a connection based on material properties, exertion of force, and/or interlocking arrangements.
10
3. A halogen headlight lamp as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the interconnection is achieved by mechanical fastening means such as snap mechanisms or screw threads, and/or by adhesion.
15
4. A halogen headlight lamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the cup-shaped component consists of metal, ceramic material, synthetic resin resistant to high temperatures, and/or glass.
- 20 5. A halogen headlight lamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that visually and/or technically readable data and/or information can be stored on and/or in the outer surface of the opaque cup-shaped component.
- 25 6. An antiglare screen for a halogen headlight lamp comprising a lamp bulb, characterized in that the opaque antiglare screen (3) is a cup-shaped component which has received substantially its final shape at the moment of its fastening to the lamp bulb (2).

7. A lighting unit comprising a halogen headlight lamp for an automobile as claimed in one of the preceding claims 1 to 5.

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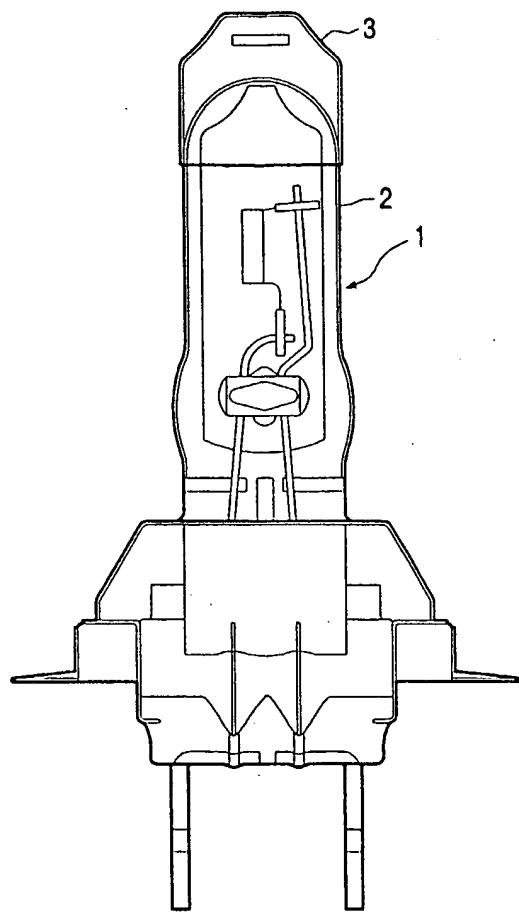


FIG. 1

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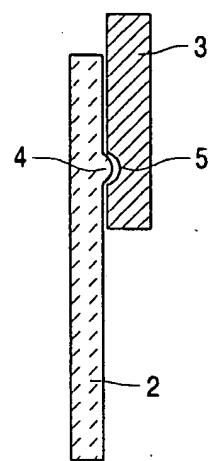


FIG. 2

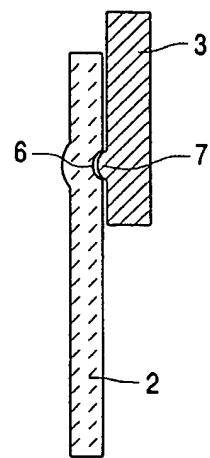


FIG. 3

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 H01K1/26 F21V17/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	FR 2 549 577 A (ROSSI) 25 January 1985 (1985-01-25) page 2, line 1 - line 2 page 2, line 22 - line 24 figures 1,3-5,8,8 ---	1,2,4,6
Y	FR 2 416 550 A (FNAC) 31 August 1979 (1979-08-31) page 1, line 1 - line 22 page 3, line 4 - line 12 claims 1,2,4,5; figures 1-4	3,5
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Y	DE 298 09 764 U (JUNGSBERGER NICOLA ELISABETH D) 29 April 1999 (1999-04-29) page 8, line 20 - line 22 figures 1,2	1,2,4-6
A	---	5
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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